

10/09/01
J1129 U.S.

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

1100 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3934

PHONE: (202) 371-2600 • FACSIMILE: (202) 371-2540 • www.skgf.com

J1050 U.S. PTO
09/971765
10/60/01

ROBERT GREENE STERNE
EDWARD J. KESSLER
DOUGLAS A. GOLDSTEIN
SAMUEL L. FOX***
DAVID K.S. CORNWELL
ROBERT W. ESMOND
TRACY-GENE G. DURKIN
MICHELE A. CIMBALA
MICHAEL B. RAY
ROBERT E. SOKOHL
ERIC K. STEFFE
MICHAEL O. LEE
STEVEN R. LUDWIG

JOHN M. COVERT
LINDA E. ALCORN
ROBERT C. MILLONIG
MICHAEL V. MESSINGER
JUDITH U. KIM
TIMOTHY J. SHEA, JR.
PATRICK E. GARRETT
JEFFREY T. HELVEY*
HEIDI L. KRAUS
JEFFREY R. KURIN
PATRICK D. O'BRIEN
LAWRENCE B. BUGAISKY
CRYSTAL D. SAYLES

EDWARD W. YEE
ALBERT L. FERRO*
DONALD R. BANOWIT
PETER A. JACKMAN
MOLLY A. MCCALL
TERESA U. MEDLER
JEFFREY S. WEAVER
KENDRICK P. PATTERSON
DONALD J. FEATHERSTONE
VINCENT L. CAPUANO
JOHN A. HARROUN*
ALBERT J. FASULO II*
ELDORA ELLISON FLOYD*

W. RUSSELL SWINDELL
THOMAS C. FIALA
BRIAN J. DEL BUONO*
VIRGIL L. BEASTON*
RYAN J. STAMPER*
REGINALD D. LUCAS*
THEODORE A. WOOD
KAREN R. MARKOWICZ**
SUZANNE E. ZISKA**
ANDREA J. KAMAGE**
NANCY J. LEITH**
ELIZABETH J. HAANES**
MARK P. TERRY**

JOSEPH M. CONRAD, III**
DOUGLAS M. WILSON**
ANN E. SUMMERFIELD**
CYNTHIA M. BOUCHEZ**
HELENE C. CARLSON**
BRUCE E. CHALKER**
GABY L. LONGSWORTH**
DUSTIN T. JOHNSON**
MATTHEW J. DOWD**
TIMOTHY M. SPEER**
AARON L. SCHWATZ**

*LIMITED TO MATTERS
AND PROCEEDINGS BEFORE
FEDERAL COURTS & AGENCIES
**REGISTERED PATENT AGENT
***SENIOR COUNSEL

October 9, 2001

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER:
(202) 371-2667

INTERNET ADDRESS:
MIKEM@SKGF.COM

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Box: Patent Application

Re: U.S. Non-Provisional Utility Patent Application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b)
Appl. No. To Be Assigned; Filed: Herewith
For: **A Method and Apparatus for a Common-Cause Failure Module for
Probabilistic Risk Assessment Tools**
Inventors: Franciscus J. GROEN *et al.*
Our Ref: 1797.0510000

Sir:

The following documents are forwarded herewith for appropriate action by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office:

1. USPTO Utility Patent Application Transmittal Form PTO/SB/05 (*in duplicate*);
2. U.S. Utility Patent Application entitled:

**A Method and Apparatus for a Common-Cause Failure Module for
Probabilistic Risk Assessment Tools**

and naming as inventors:

Franciscus J. GROEN
Carol S. SMIDTS
Ali MOSLEH

the application comprising:

Commissioner for Patents

October 9, 2001

Page 2

- a. A specification containing:
 - i. 23 pages of description prior to the claims;
 - ii. 7 pages of claims (26 claims - 6 Independent);
 - iii. a one (1) page abstract;
 - b. 12 sheets of drawings: (Figures 1-12); and
 - c. an Application Data Sheet (37 C.F.R. § 1.76).
3. Authorization to Treat a Reply As Incorporating An Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3)(*in duplicate*); and
 4. Two (2) return postcards.

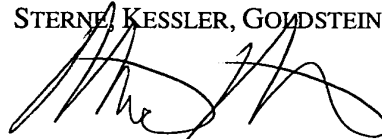
Correspondence should be sent to Customer Number 26111.

It is respectfully requested that, of the two attached postcards, one be stamped with the filing date of these documents and returned to our courier, and the other, prepaid postcard, be stamped with the filing date and unofficial application number and returned as soon as possible.

This patent application is being submitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) without Declaration and without filing fee.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Michael V. Messinger
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 37,575

Enclosures

Please type a sign (+) inside this box →

PTO/SB/05 (03-01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0032
Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.


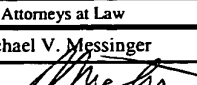
UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL (Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR § 1.53(b))		Attorney Docket No.	1797.0510000
		First Inventor	Franciscus J. GROEN <i>et al.</i>
		Title	A Method and Apparatus for a Common-Cause Failure Module for Probabilistic Risk Assessment Tools
		Express Mail Label No.	

APPLICATION ELEMENTS <i>See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.</i>	ADDRESS TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents Box Patent Application Washington, DC 20231
<p>1. <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17) (Submit an original, and a duplicate for fee processing)</p> <p>2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.</p> <p>3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification [Total Pages <u>31</u>] (preferred arrangement set forth below) - Descriptive title of the Invention - Cross Reference to Related Applications - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D - Reference to sequence listing, a table, or a computer program listing appendix - Background of the Invention - Brief Summary of the Invention - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed) - Detailed Description - Claim(s) - Abstract of the Disclosure</p> <p>4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawings (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets <u>12</u>]</p> <p>5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oath or Declaration [Total Pages <u>1</u>] a. <input type="checkbox"/> Newly executed (original or copy) b. <input type="checkbox"/> Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d)) (for continuation/divisional with Box 18 completed) i. <input type="checkbox"/> DELETION OF INVENTOR(S) Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 CFR §§ 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).</p> <p>6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76.</p> <p>7. <input type="checkbox"/> CD-ROM or CD-R in duplicate, large table or Computer Program (Appendix)</p> <p>8. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, all necessary) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Readable Form (CRF) b. Specification Sequence Listing on: i. <input type="checkbox"/> CD-ROM or CD-R (2 copies); or ii. <input type="checkbox"/> paper c. <input type="checkbox"/> Statements verifying identity of above copies</p>	ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS <p>9. <input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))</p> <p>10. <input type="checkbox"/> 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement (when there is an assignee) <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney</p> <p>11. <input type="checkbox"/> English Translation Document (if applicable)</p> <p>12. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of IDS Citations</p> <p>13. <input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Amendment</p> <p>14. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Two (2) Return Receipt Postcards (Should be specifically itemized)</p> <p>15. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) (if foreign priority is claimed)</p> <p>16. <input type="checkbox"/> Nonpublication Request under 35 U.S.C. 122 (b)(2)(B)(i). Applicant must attach form PTO/SB/35 or its equivalent.</p> <p>17. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Authorization Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3)(in duplicate)</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>The name of the assignee is:</u></p>

18. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment, or in an Application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-Part (CIP) of prior application No: ____/
Prior application information: Examiner _____ Group/Art Unit: _____

For CONTINUATION OR DIVISIONAL APPS only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 5b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

19. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Customer Number or Bar Code Label Customer No. 26111		 (Insert Customer No. or Attach bar code label here)	
NAME		STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.	
		Attorneys at Law	
NAME (Print/Type)	Michael V. Messinger	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	37,575
SIGNATURE		Date	October 9, 2001

Burden Hour Statement: this form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, DC 20231.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Franciscus J. GROEN *et al.*

Appl. No. To Be Assigned

Filed: Herewith

For: **A Method and Apparatus for a Common-Cause Failure Module for Probabilistic Risk Assessment Tools**

Confirmation No.

Art Unit: To Be Assigned

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Atty. Docket: 1797.0510000



Authorization To Treat A Reply As Incorporating An Extension Of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for an extension of time under this paragraph for its timely submission, as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge all required extension of time fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036, if such fees are not otherwise provided for in such reply. A duplicate copy of this authorization is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael V. Messinger".

Michael V. Messinger
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 37,575

Date: October 9, 2001

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600